

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS
June 8, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
Michigan Education Association
1216 Kendale Boulevard – East Lansing

PRESENT: Felix H. Chow, Ying N. Gee, Roland Hwang (via telephone), Maggie Chen Hernandez, Radha Krishnan, Remi B. Kuklewski, Ernestina DeLos Santos-Mac, Marilyn Nagano Schlieff, Amy Ku'uleialoha Stillman, Ramesh Verma, H. Sook Wilkinson, Peter K. Wong, Sheila Xiong.

EXCUSED: Francisco B. Borja, Jr., William D. Dechavez, Susan Im, Jayashree Kommareddi, Rep. Hoon-Yung Hopgood, Natividad Jenks, Narendra R. Kumar, Guozhen Lu, Dominic J. Pangborn, Ananda S. Prasad, Ganesh V. Reddy, Samir Singh, Marie-Ange Weng, Leslie Wong, Meredith Woo-Cumings, Herbert S. Yamanishi.

GUESTS: Ms. Su Min Oh – Michigan Dept. of Community Health; Ms. Myung Ja Yoo – Community Observer; Ms. Jinny Han – Michigan State University; Ms. Peggy McLellan – MEA Sec'y – Treasurer; Ms. Linda Myers – MEA Government Affairs.

STATE OF MICHIGAN:

Lynn McNamara, Administrative Assistant - MDCR; Jose Salazar, Office Services - MDCR; George Wirth, Legal Advisor to ACAPAA and Director of Hearings and Mediation – MDCR; Alisande Henry – Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth; Trevor Coleman, Director of Communications for MDCR.

The meeting of the Advisory Council for Asian Pacific American Affairs was called to order at 10:14 a.m. by Chair H. Sook Wilkinson. Council members, observers, guests and Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) colleagues introduced themselves.

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Department of Education presentation has been canceled; On motion duly made and supported, the modified agenda was approved. Motion carried.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 6, 2006 MEETING

On motion duly made and supported, the minutes were approved. Motion carried.

III. PRESENTATION

*A. OVERVIEW OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH –
Alisande Henry, Office of the Director*

Director Robert Swanson became director of DLEG in May of 2006, replacing former director David Hollister. The current department is a combination of the former Department of Consumer and Industry Services and the Department of Career Development, and now includes over 30 divisions. Ms. Henry gave a thorough overview of the department (see attachment to minutes) and responded to questions on adult learning and college internships.

Trevor Coleman, MDCR Director of Communications, introduced himself to the Council and stated that there will be a press conference scheduled for Monday, June 12 regarding the findings of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission relative to the gathering of signatures for the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative.

IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Wilkinson thanked Mr. Coleman for publicizing the Asian Pacific Heritage Month in the Detroit newspapers, and she reviewed the events that occurred during the month of May, 2006, including Rep. Hoon-Yung Hopgood's APA celebration event at the Capitol and CAPA's Splendor of the East event in Detroit.

Also during May, Chairperson Wilkinson spoke at a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services program, and at TACOM, the U.S. Army's Tank, Automotive and Armament Command in Warren, Michigan, which donated \$300 to the MDCR. Ms. Wilkinson also attended the National Coalition of Asian Pacific American Community Development conference in Houston.

A White House Presidential Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders made a site visit at Social Research Institute, University of Michigan for two days. The first day was focused on Pacific Islander issues. Council member Stillman helped represent the Council to that group. The second day was a town hall meeting. More than a dozen organizations and individuals made presentations. Chair Wilkinson presented the ACAPAA Policy Recommendation Document. Other ACAPAA members present were Ying Gee, Roland Hwang, Ernie Mac, and Meredith Woo.

Mr. José Reyna of COSSA has contacted ACAPAA to explore the possibility of a joint press conference stating their unity on immigration and English language legislation. Chairperson Wilkinson will share additional information with the Council as she receives it.

Finally, the Council presented its Policy Recommendation Document to Governor Jennifer M. Granholm in May, which was received enthusiastically.

V. DISCUSSION ON INITIATIVE IMPLEMENTATION

Chairperson Wilkinson said that it is imperative to identify those action items in the Report that are the most likely to get done in the short term, and some have already been done; e.g., the Affirmative Action Resolution from the Council. These do not have to be strictly limited items specifically addressed in the Report. Items agreed to by Council members are listed below:

- Council members serving as delegates to visiting dignitaries, commissions or representatives of APA countries or businesses.
- Establishing a communications plan for educating the wider APA community.
- Responding to legislative proposals.

An additional suggestion included that the Council recommend abolishing the Commission on Graduate of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) examination requirement for foreign nurses.

Council members Kuklewski, Krishnan and DeLos Santos-Mac volunteered to serve on a communications committee. Council member Kuklewski volunteered to serve as chair of the committee. Their first charge will be to work on a dissemination plan for the Policy Recommendation Document.

VI. OVERALL COMMITTEE

The committee met by conference call on June 6 but in the absence of the Overall Committee chairperson, discussion deferred until the August meeting.

VII. CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Council member Gee said that the committee had agreed to work on three issues: Voter Rights, Voter Registration, and educating the AP community on the MCRI.

VIII. BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Council member Peter Wong presented recommendations made by the Business Committee (see attachment to minutes.) Council members present agreed to be a resource to any visiting APA business delegation to Michigan. Mr. Wong will work on forming a subcommittee.

IX. IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

Councilmember Im previously prepared a summary of proposed immigration legislation, and Council members Kuklewski and Verma spoke to some of the key points in the summary. (see attachment to minutes)

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. *Linda Myers, Michigan Education Association Government Affairs*

Ms. Myers gave a brief overview of the three ballot issues that MEA is most involved with, those being the MCRI, the Education Funding Guarantee (“K-16 Coalition) and the “Stop Overspending/Taxpayers Bill of Rights.”

Regarding the initiatives named in the ACAPAA Report to the Governor, Ms. Myers suggested working with Michigan’s legislators and the Department of Education to include more information on cultural diversity in school curriculums. She also encouraged all APA leaders to become active in their school boards to influence the funding and activities of their local schools.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Su Min Oh of the Michigan Dept. of Community Health volunteered to bring speakers to future meetings to give information on health issues which address initiatives listed in the Report to the Governor.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

George Wirth reported on several issues now at the Supreme Court.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

Chairperson Wilkinson reported on Council’s budget year-to-date.

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular Council meeting will be August 3, at 10:00 a.m., at the Michigan Education Office in East Lansing. October’s meeting will be held at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and supported, the meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.
Motion carried.

H. Sook Wilkinson, Chair

Francisco B. Borja, Secretary

Recorded by: Lynn McNamara, Administrative Assistant

Attachments:

DLEG Overview Presentation
Business Committee Presentation
Materials from AFL-CIO Labor Civil Rights Summit
Summary of Immigration Bills
State of Michigan Voter Registration Application (ED-121)